

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): One of the chairs is missing.

PRESIDENT: I see there is a vacant chair there. Is there any label on it?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): All the chairs here are labelled.

PRESIDENT: Anyhow the vacant chair may be occupied.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): If the President will authorise, that is all right.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No recommendation has come to the Government and the Government are not aware when the recommendation was made.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): My question is, when was the Lady Principal's recommendation made to the Director of Public Instruction?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I shall enquire. I have not got the information ready now.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): How is it that no provision has been made in the present budget for this?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The matter came up for consideration at the time of preparing the budget, and the Government then thought that the work was not so urgent as certain others for which provision had to be made in the budget for 1100.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): With reference to the answer to part (d) of the question, may I know when the recommendation was made?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I believe the recommendation was made in June. Further correspondence had to be carried on and orders were finally communicated in July 1924.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What is the nature of the order? Has the Chemistry Lecturer been appointed?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes; Mr. Fenn has been appointed to that post.

Testing the Quality of Salt.

88. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): (a) If salt should be fit for consumption, at what degree should it be scraped?

(b) At what degree is the salt scraped in the several factories in South Travancore?

(c) If salt is scraped at 32° and above, is it fit for consumption?

(d) Is brine tested in every pan before scraping salt?

(e) If so, how often did the Excise Commissioner and the Assistant Commissioners check the brine, and what are the registers, if any, maintained for the purpose?

[Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

(f) If testing is carried on, is it done by the Inspector or by any of his subordinates?

(g) Has the Assistant Commissioner or Excise Commissioner tested the hydrometers in use to see whether they are in order and whether they read correctly?

(h) Is there any rule about the percentage of the pans to be tested each day by the Inspector?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(a) As a general rule, salt scraped between 28° and 30° is fit for consumption. But experience has shown that salt scraped between 30° and 32° is also fit for consumption.

(b) In all the factories in South Travancore, except Tamaraculam old *allom* and Rajakkamangalam, salt is scraped at 30°. In the latter two factories, salt is generally scraped between 30° and 32°.

(c) Salt scraped at 32° is found to be fit for consumption. No salt is scraped at above 32°.

(d) Yes.

(e) The Assistant Excise Commissioner check-tests the brine several days in the month and the result is recorded in the scraping register. The Excise Commissioner has occasionally checked the brine during his visits to the factories.

(f) The testing is carried on both by the Inspector and his Petty Officers.

(g) Yes.

(h) There is no specific rule. But the Assistant Excise Commissioner allots the number of pans to be tested each day by the Inspector and Petty Officers at his discretion and usually 5 per cent. of the pans tested by the Petty Officers are checked by the Inspector.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to assure me that salt is not being scraped at the old factory at Tamaraculam at 32° and above?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The answer to that is contained in part (b). I can give no more assurance to Mr. Hoogewerf than that given to the Government by the Excise Commissioner.

Stationing of Police Officers.

89. MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): (a) Do the Government consider it proper to keep police officers in the same station for more than three years?

(b) Are there instances of such officers being kept in the same place for more than that period?